

## Kapitel 4, Adam Smith uddrag på engelsk og den danske oversættelse

Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations (Nationernes Velstand)* er det første større videnskabelige værk inden for økonomi. Det er i dette værk, der første gang foretages en systematisk undersøgelse af arbejdsdelingens betydning. Det afsnit, Prouy henviser til lyder således i den engelske version:

*"To take an example, therefore, from a very trifling manufacture; but one in which the division of labour has been very often taken notice of, the trade of the pin-maker; a workman not educated to this business (which the division of labour has rendered a distinct trade), nor acquainted with the use of the machinery employed in it (to the invention of which the same division of labour has probably given occasion), could scarce, perhaps, with his utmost industry, make one pin in a day, and certainly could not make twenty. But in the way in which this business is now carried on, not only the whole work is a peculiar trade, but it is divided into a number of branches, of which the greater part are likewise peculiar trades. One man draws out the wire, another straightens it, a third cuts it, a fourth points it, a fifth grinds it at the top for receiving, the head; to make the head requires two or three distinct operations; to put it on is a peculiar business, to whiten the pins is another; it is even a trade by itself to put them into the paper; and the important business of making a pin is, in this manner, divided into about eighteen distinct operations, which, in some manufactories, are all performed by distinct hands, though in others the same man will sometimes perform two or three of them. I have seen a small manufactory of this kind where ten men only were employed, and where some of them consequently performed two or three distinct operations. But though they were very poor, and therefore but indifferently accommodated with the necessary machinery, they could, when they exerted themselves, make among them about twelve pounds of pins in a day. There are in a pound upwards of four thousand pins of a middling size. Those ten persons, therefore, could make among them upwards of forty-eight thousand pins in a day. Each person, therefore, making a tenth part of forty-eight thousand pins, might be considered as making four thousand eight hundred pins in a day. But if they had all wrought separately and independently, and without any of them having been educated to this peculiar business, they certainly could not each of them have made twenty, perhaps not one pin in a day; that is, certainly, not the two hundred and fortieth, perhaps not the four thousand eight hundredth part of what they are at present capable of performing, in consequence of a proper division and combination of their different operations."*



Et eksempel på en nålefabrik, som illustrerer betydningen af den arbejdsdeling, Adam Smith omtaler i sit epokegørende værk om *Nationernes velstand*.

Adam Smith: *Wealth of Nations* kan hentes her: <http://www.classicreader.com/book/770/>

website: [link fra kapitel 4. Logaritmefunktioner, afsnit 1](#)

Nationernes Velstand er oversat til dansk. Nedenfor er det indledende afsnit gengivet sammen med oversætterens overvejelser om vanskelighederne ved at oversætte en tekst, der arbejder med før-industrielle begreber. Den danske udgave er udkommet på Rhodos i 1976, i oversættelse ved Per Lyngsaae Olsen.

(Indsætte de scanned sider)